



Bioenergy a Valuable Export and Job Creator for Wisconsin

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MADISON – U.S. exports of ethanol hit a record one billion gallons this past year and that is good news for Wisconsin ethanol producers, says the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP).

Wisconsin's second most valuable export in the first three quarters of 2011 was a category that includes denatured ethyl alcohol, the formal name for ethanol. This export category was valued at \$217 million, a growth of 169 percent over the same period in 2010. Wisconsin's largest market for this category was Canada.

There are nine large scale ethanol production facilities in the state, employing 420 people full-time. That's roughly 22-million dollars in income that goes back into Wisconsin's economy. And while ethanol products are sold overseas, those jobs will never leave the state. Many of those ethanol plants are owned and operated by Wisconsin businesses, so that income doesn't leave the state either.

There is continued growth potential in ethanol related exports around the world. According to the Renewable Fuels Association, the U.S. is positioned to meet the demands for renewable fuels in Canada, Mexico, Europe, Brazil and Southeast Asia, because our country's ethanol now has the lowest cost of any transportation fuel in the world. Wisconsin is the seventh largest ethanol producer in the country with room to grow to help meet the increasing need.

Another opportunity for our ethanol industry is our ability to export an ethanol production by-product, dried distiller grains (DDGS). Wisconsin ethanol plants produced nearly 38 metric tons of those grains in the past year. Nearly a quarter of the DDGS produced in the state are exported to other countries for livestock feed.

A priority for DATCP is making the connections needed to support the growth of bioenergy in Wisconsin. By growing crops for energy, gaining additional access to new markets and developing efficiencies, bioenergy can be a profitable system for our farmers and strengthen our economy.

DATCP's International Trade Team works to increase agricultural exports by offering business counseling, educational seminars, market research, market development and international promotions. DATCP has been assisting Wisconsin agriculture in the international marketplace for 45 years.

For more information on the services available from the International Trade Team, call 1-800-462-5237 or email international@wisconsin.gov. Also connect with DATCP on Twitter at twitter.com/widatcp or Facebook at facebook.com/widatcp.

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